

We claim:

1 1. A surgical device, comprising:
2 a relatively short outer member defining an interior bore, a
3 proximal portion, a distal portion and a distal opening;
4 a relatively short shaft defining a main body portion and a distal
5 portion, located at least partially within the interior bore of the relatively short
6 outer member and slidable relative to the relatively short outer member;
7 a control element defining a distal portion connected to the distal
8 portion of the relatively short shaft and a proximal portion extending toward
9 the proximal portion of the relatively short outer member; and
10 an operative element on the distal portion of the relatively short
11 shaft.

1 2. A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control
2 element comprises a pull wire.

1 3. A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operative
2 element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

1 4. A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
2 a mask element associated with the operative element.

1 5. A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control
2 element extends along the exterior of the relatively short shaft within the
3 relatively short outer member.

1 6. A surgical device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the relatively
2 short outer member comprises a tubular member.

1 7. A surgical device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the relatively
2 short outer member is relatively stiff.

1 8. A surgical device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the main body
2 portion of the relatively short shaft is relatively stiff.

1 9. A surgical device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the distal
2 portion of the relatively short shaft is flexible.

1 10. A surgical device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the distal
2 portion of the relatively short shaft includes a flexible region and a malleable
3 region.

1 11. A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the distal
2 portion of the relatively short shaft includes longitudinally spaced shaft indicia
3 and the relatively short outer member includes outer member indicia that
4 interrelates with the shaft indicia in such a manner that the shaft indicia visible
5 when a region of the distal portion of the relatively short shaft extends
6 outwardly from the distal opening and the outer member indicia together
7 indicate how much of the distal portion of the relatively short shaft remains
8 within the relatively short outer member.

1 12. A surgical device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the operative
2 element comprises a plurality of electrodes, the shaft indicia comprises first
3 shaft indicia associated with a first electrode, and the distal member indicia
4 comprises first distal member indicia corresponding to the first shaft indicia.

1 13. A surgical device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the shaft
2 indicia further comprises second shaft indicia associated with a second
3 electrode and the distal member indicia comprises second distal member
4 indicia corresponding to the second shaft indicia.

1 14. A surgical device as claimed in claim 13, wherein a third
2 electrode is located distal of the first and second electrodes.

1 15. A surgical device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the shaft
2 indicia comprises at least one colored ring and the outer member indicia
3 comprises a least one colored ring.

1 16. A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relatively
2 short outer member defines a first relatively short outer member, the surgical
3 device further comprising:

4 a second relatively short outer member defining an interior bore,
5 a proximal portion, a distal portion and a distal opening, and being arranged
6 relative to the first relatively short outer member such that the distal portion of
7 the relatively short shaft may be advanced outwardly from the distal opening
8 of the first relatively short outer member into the distal opening of the second
9 relatively short outer member to define a loop.

1 17. A surgical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first and
2 second relatively short outer members are secured to one another.

1 18. A surgical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the distal
2 openings of the first and second relatively short outer members face in
3 different directions.

1 19. A surgical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first
2 relatively short outer member defines a substantially linear longitudinal axis
3 and the second relatively short outer member defines a curved longitudinal
4 axis.

1 20. A surgical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the second
2 relatively short outer member includes a slot.

1 21. A surgical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the distal
2 opening of at least one of the first and second relatively short outer members
3 is outwardly flared.

1 22. A surgical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first
2 relatively short outer member includes a lock adapted to fix the position of the
3 relatively short shaft relative to the relatively short outer member.

1 23. A surgical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first
2 relatively short outer member includes a tie post.

1 24. A surgical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first
2 relatively short outer member is relatively stiff.

1 25. A surgical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the operative
2 element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

1 26. A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operative
2 element comprises a tip electrode having a pair of exterior openings.

1 27. A surgical device as claimed in claim 26, wherein the exterior
2 openings are connected by a through hole extending through the tip
3 electrode.